U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT

I. Heading

Date: May 25, 1995

From: James D. Harkay, OSC,
US EPA Removal Action Branch

Dan Harkay 6/1/95

To:

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NY RRT	M. Van Valkenburg, NYSDOH
TAT	ERD, Washington, (E-Mail)
A. Block, ATSDR	D. Humphrey, Village of Harriman

Subject: Pyridium Mercury Disposal Site No. 2 (Pyridium 2)
Village of Harriman, Orange County, NY

POLREP: Two (2)

II. Background

SITE No.:	EZ
Delivery Order:	N/A
Response Authority:	CERCLA
CERCLIS No.:	N/A
NPL Status:	Not on NPL
State Notification:	NYSDOH Notified
Action Memorandum Status:	Under Preparation
Start Date:	February 27, 1995
Demobilization Date:	March 8, 1995
RV/ Completion Date:	March 9, 1995

III. Site Information

A. Site Description

1. Site location

The Pyridium Mercury Disposal Site No. 2 is a residential property located at 40 South Main Street, Village of Harriman, Orange County, New York. The site is a 1/4 acre residential property, back-filled with mercury-contaminated industrial waste. The site includes a two-story, nineteenth century farmhouse predating the waste disposal activities. For the past three years, a woman and her two small children have rented the house.

In the early 1950's, approximately 8 to 15 truckloads of waste were allegedly dumped in a L-shaped pattern in the front yard. The waste was allegedly a mercuric or mercurous salt generated during the production of niacinamide (vitamin B-3) by the former Pyridium Corporation. The waste was used to back-fill low-laying areas of the front yard. Part of the mercury waste disposal area by the front porch was fenced. The fenced area served as a children's playground and an exercise yard for the family dog.

Site investigations, conducted by EPA and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) in October and December 1994, indicate approximately 500 cubic yards of waste were used as back-fill. Analytical results of the waste samples indicate elevated mercury concentrations as high as 477 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg). Typical soil background mercury concentrations are less than 1 mg/kg in this geographic location.

On November 17, 1994, the EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT) and the Response Engineering and Analytical Contractor (REAC) collected dust samples from inside the house. Mercury was detected at concentrations of 1.38 mg/kg and 2.06 mg/kg in two dust samples.

The EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) informed the resident of the site investigation results and advised her to limit family use of the contaminated areas. A NYSDOH physician has also discussed site-specific health concerns with the resident. The analytical results were submitted to the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) for a health consultation.

In January 1995, a Draft Health Consultation Report was prepared by the NYSDOH under a cooperative agreement with the ATSDR. The report states that the Pyridium Mercury Disposal Site No. 2 is a public health hazard due to mercury concentrations in soils. Residents are suspected to be at risk of kidney damage through mercury ingestion, inhalation and dermal contact.

IV. Response Information

A. Situation

1. Current situation

On February 27, 1995, verbal authorization of the current removal action was approved by the EPA Director of the Emergency and Remedial Response Division. An Action Memorandum, confirming verbal authorization, was prepared and submitted to the Director.

The removal action scope of work included cleaning the first floor of the house; modifying the pre-existing fence in front of the house and installing a fence in the back of the house.

2. Removal activities to date

On February 27, 1995, EPA, TAT and ERCS were mobilized to site. Approximately 300 feet of 5-foot, vinyl-covered chain-link fence was installed in the back of the house with an access gate by the driveway. The fenced area provided a safe, mercury waste free environment for the children and the family pet to play.

The pre-existing fence was also modified by removing the sections of fence on the sides of the front porch. A new length of fence was installed approximately 2 feet from the front porch. The modified fence restricts access to the contaminated area without blocking the resident's fire egress route. The fenced area was further secured by a locked gate.

Installation of the new fence and modification of the pre-existing fence began on March 1 and was completed on March 3, 1995.

On March 8, the rooms on the first floor of the residence were cleaned as a precautionary measure; in case, any of the mercury waste had been tracked inside. The living and play rooms were vacuumed twice with a water-driven vacuum cleaner. The kitchen floor was swept and washed twice with soap and water.

On March 8, all equipment and personnel were demobilized after installing and fastening stakes to the fence between the upright support posts. The stakes were installed to prevent the family dog from digging under the fence.

3. Enforcement

The mercury waste found on site was reportedly generated from the production of niacinamide by the Pyridium Corporation in the 1940's and 1950's. Nepera, Inc. owns and operates the facility, previously operated by Pyridium Corporation.

B. Next Steps

Future removal activities may include removal of the contaminated soil and property restoration.

C. Key Issues

None.

V. Cost Information (as of 5/12/95)*

	Project Ceiling	Cost to Date	Funds Remaining
ERCS Contractor Costs	$ 30,000	$ 12,000	$ 18,000
TAT Contractor Costs	15,000	4,000	11,000
EPA Costs	5,000	2,000	4,000
TOTAL	50,000	18,000	22,000

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

VI. Disposition of Wastes

N/A